

preeminent symbol of the Greek cultural heritage—its art, architecture, and democracy—and of the contributions that modern Greeks and their forefathers have made to civilization;

Whereas over 100 pieces of the Parthenon's sculptures—now known as the Parthenon Marbles—were removed from the Parthenon under questionable circumstances between 1801 and 1816, while Greece was still under Ottoman rule;

Whereas the removal of the Parthenon Marbles, including their perilous voyage to Great Britain and their careless storage there for many years, greatly endangered the Marbles;

Whereas the Parthenon Marbles were removed to grace the private home of Lord Elgin, who transferred the Marbles to the British Museum only after severe personal economic misfortunes;

Whereas the sculptures of the Parthenon were designed as an integral part of the structure of the Parthenon temple; the carvings of the friezes, pediments, and metopes are not merely statuary, movable decorative art, but are integral parts of the Parthenon, which can best be appreciated if all the Parthenon Marbles are reunified;

Whereas the Parthenon has served as a place of worship for ancient Greeks, Orthodox Christians, Roman Catholics, and Muslims;

Whereas the Parthenon has been adopted by imitation by the United States in many preeminent public buildings, including the Lincoln Memorial;

Whereas the Parthenon is a universal symbol of culture, democracy, and freedom, making the Parthenon Marbles of concern not only to Greece but to all the world;

Whereas, since obtaining independence in 1830, Greece has sought the return of the Parthenon Marbles;

Whereas the return of the Parthenon Marbles would be a profound demonstration by the United Kingdom of its appreciation and respect for the Parthenon and classical art;

Whereas, even without considering the legal issues surrounding the removal of the Parthenon Marbles, the United Kingdom should return them in recognition that the Parthenon is part of the cultural heritage of the entire world and, as such, should be made whole;

Whereas Greece would provide care for the Parthenon Marbles equal or superior to the care provided by the British Museum, especially considering the irreparable harm caused by attempts by the museum to remove the original color and patina of the marbles with abrasive cleaners;

Whereas Greece is constructing a new, permanent museum to house all the Marbles, protected from the elements and in full view of the Acropolis;

Whereas Greece and various international committees have pledged to work with the British government to negotiate mutually agreeable conditions for the return of the Parthenon Marbles;

Whereas the people of the United Kingdom do not have an ancient bond to the Parthenon Marbles, given that the Marbles have been in London for less than 200 years of the over 2,430 year history of the Parthenon was built, and as evidenced by a 1998 poll in which only 15 percent of the Britons polled recalled having seen the Marbles in the British Museum;

Whereas the British people support the return of the Parthenon Marbles, as reflected in several recent polls;

Whereas a resolution signed by a majority of members of the European Parliament

urged the British government to return the Parthenon Marbles to their natural setting in Greece;

Whereas the British House of Commons Select Committee on Culture, Media and Sport is to be commended for examining the issue of the disposition of the Parthenon Marbles in hearings held this year;

Whereas returning the Parthenon Marbles to Greece would be a gesture of good will on the part of the British Parliament, and would in no way affect the disposition of other objects in museums around the world; and

Whereas in 2004 the Olympics will return to Greece, where the Olympics began, and the Parthenon Marbles should be returned to their home in Athens by that time: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That it is the sense of the Congress that the Government of the United Kingdom should enter into negotiations with the Government of Greece as soon as possible to facilitate the return of the Parthenon Marbles to Greece before the Olympics in 2004.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 128— URGING THE NOBEL COMMISSION TO AWARD THE NOBEL PRIZE FOR PEACE TO HIS HOLINESS, POPE JOHN PAUL II, FOR HIS DEDICATION TO FOSTERING PEACE THROUGHOUT THE WORLD

Mr. SANTORUM submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. CON. RES. 128

Whereas His Holiness, Pope John Paul II, has worked tirelessly and as much as any other world leader to bring peace to regions of the world which have known strife, intolerance, and violence for far too long;

Whereas His Holiness, Pope John Paul II, knows the persecution of oppression, having studied for the priesthood in secrecy and having seen those he grew up with killed and victimized due to the Nazi Occupation, and later witnessing firsthand the communist subjugation of his native Poland;

Whereas His Holiness, Pope John Paul II, since his installment as Cardinal of the Church, has traveled more extensively throughout the world than any predecessor, spreading his message of peace, religious freedom, and human dignity;

Whereas His Holiness, Pope John Paul II, was instrumental in the demise of communism in his native Poland, which in turn fostered the spread of democracy throughout the world;

Whereas His Holiness, Pope John Paul II, has reached out in an unprecedented manner to people of other beliefs and religions to establish a dialog which may lead to greater understanding, healing, and harmony, including praying for unity among Christian churches, reaching out towards a reconciliation with the Jewish people, and specifically acknowledging those times the Catholic Church has failed to act in accordance with its teachings;

Whereas in March of this year, His Holiness, Pope John Paul II, led a historic pilgrimage to the Middle East, including Jordan, Israel, and the Palestinian territories, preaching coexistence, peace, tolerance, and goodwill throughout this historically conflicted territory; and

Whereas His Holiness, Pope John Paul II, has used his position as a world leader to become the foremost voice to foster ties of brotherhood and for the promotion of peace and reconciliation in the world today: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That the Congress urges the Nobel Commission to award the Nobel Prize for Peace to His Holiness, Pope John Paul II.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 129—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING THE IMPORTANCE AND VALUE OF EDUCATION IN UNITED STATES HISTORY

Mr. LIEBERMAN (for himself, Mr. GORTON, Mr. SMITH of Oregon, Mr. CLELAND, Mr. BYRD, Mr. CONRAD, Mr. BENNETT, and Mr. GRAMS) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. CON. RES. 129

Whereas basic knowledge of United States history is essential to full and informed participation in civic life and to the larger vibrancy of the American experiment in self-government;

Whereas basic knowledge of the past serves as a civic glue, binding together a diverse people into a single Nation with a common purpose;

Whereas citizens who lack knowledge of United States history will also lack an understanding and appreciation of the democratic principles that define and sustain the Nation as a free people, such as liberty, justice, tolerance, government by the consent of the governed, and equality under the law;

Whereas a recent Roper survey done for the American Council of Trustees and Alumni reveals that the next generation of American leaders and citizens is in danger of losing America's civic memory;

Whereas the Roper survey found that 81 percent of seniors at elite colleges and universities could not answer basic high school level questions concerning United States history, that scarcely more than half knew general information about American democracy and the Constitution, and that only 22 percent could identify the source of the most famous line of the Gettysburg Address;

Whereas many of the Nation's colleges and universities no longer require United States history as a prerequisite to graduation, including 100 percent of the top institutions of higher education;

Whereas 78 percent of the Nation's top colleges and universities no longer require the study of any form of history;

Whereas America's colleges and universities are leading bellwethers of national priorities and values, setting standards for the whole of the United States' education system and sending signals to students, teachers, parents, and public schools about what every educated citizen in a democracy must know;

Whereas many of America's most distinguished historians and intellectuals have expressed alarm about the growing historical illiteracy of college and university graduates and the consequences for the Nation; and

Whereas the distinguished historians and intellectuals fear that without a common civic memory and a common understanding of the remarkable individuals, events, and ideals that have shaped the Nation, people in